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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health  
and Sanitary Inspectors

FOR THE YEAR 1942.



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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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GAVIN MILLAR, M.B., Ch.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health.

## CHESTER-LE-STREET RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

CHESTER-LE-STREET,

July, 1943.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council of  
Chester-le-Street.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present, on Dr. Millar's behalf, his eighth annual report on the health and sanitary condition of the Rural District, for the year ending the 31st December, 1942.

As instructed by the Ministry of Health, the report is confined to essential and urgent matters only, and on grounds of national security, complete tables of local populations or quotations from the figures supplied by the Registrar General which may enable any substantial series of local populations to be reconstructed, are omitted from the report.

There has been a decrease of 840 in the estimated population of the Rural District from 1941.

There has been a slight decrease in the birth-rate, and the death rate remains the same as last year.

The infant mortality rate, and maternal mortality rate is slightly higher than last year.

The death rates of influenza and diphtheria show an increase on last year; measles remains the same, and there have been no deaths from whooping cough. The attack rate of diphtheria is higher than last year.

The response to the offer by the Local Authority of free immunisation of children against diphtheria continues to be disappointing: the latest returns show that approximately 39.13% of children aged 1-5 years, and 58.7% of children aged 5-15 years have so far been protected, which is a substantial increase on last year's figures, but this result will have very little effect on the incidence of diphtheria within the district, and until 75% of the child population have been protected, there will be no reduction in the incidence of this disease. It cannot be too clearly stressed that the ideal time for protection of children is not in the midst of an epidemic, but in quiet periods, because it must be understood that it takes three months for immunity to develop after the injection.

There has been an increase in the number of new cases of pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis, and a decrease in the number of deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis. The increase in the new cases of the respiratory condition affects mainly males and females between 15 and 35 years of age, whereas the increase in the non-pulmonary form affects chiefly the 5-15 age group.

Treatment of scabies is carried out at the First Aid Post, Elisabethville School, Birtley, with good results.

Posters on Venereal Diseases have been distributed throughout the district.

The water supplies of the area continue to receive careful supervision from your Officers. Samples of water are taken at frequent intervals for bacteriological examination, and close contact is maintained with officials of the various water undertakings supplying the area.

Careful watch is kept on the milk supplies of the area and from results of the examination of samples made, it can be said that milk produced within the area is clean and wholesome.

There is still in the area a large number of houses which are unfit for human habitation ; a number of dwellings are seriously overcrowded, but owing to the war, very little can be done to remedy this distressing problem.

The cleanliness and sanitary condition of the public air raid shelters in the area continue to receive the attention of your Health Officials. The condition of the shelters since the appointment of shelter attendants has improved.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ALICE M. BOWMAN,  
Medical Officer of Health.

## ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT.

### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

#### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :—

GAVIN MILLAR, M.B., Ch.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.

#### SANITARY SURVEYOR :—

A. T. PALLISTER, M.I.M. & Cy.E., M.R. San. I.

#### SANITARY INSPECTORS :—

THOMAS FOSTER, A.R.S.I. and Certificate in meat inspection  
of the R.S.I.

CHARLES W. ROBSON, C.R.S.I. and Certificate in Meat  
Inspection of the R.S.I.

A 50% grant is payable in respect of the salaries of the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspectors.

### SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

#### Area.

The area of the district is the same as last year.

#### Population.

The Registrar General's estimate of population for the Rural District for mid-year 1942 is 840 less than the population for 1941.

#### Rateable Value.

The rateable value of the district on 31st December, 1941, was £152,276 and a penny rate represented the sum of £558.

#### Extracts of Vital Statistics.

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	16·4
Still Birth	
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... ..	39·3
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	12·9

Deaths from puerperal causes (headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis ...	1	1.51
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	0	0.00
Total ...	1	1.51

Death rate of infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births ...	89
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate Live births	87
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	132
Deaths from Cancer (at all ages) ...	51
Deaths from Measles (at all ages) ...	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	5

### Vital Statistics.

The following table gives the vital statistics of the district for 1942 and previous years :—

Year.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Infant Mortality Rate.
1933 ...	18.2	10.9	77
1934 ...	16.9	12.4	73
1935 ...	16.4	11.7	63
1936 ...	17.0	11.9	61
1937 ...	15.8	11.8	71
1938 ...	17.2	10.4	55
1939 ...	15.1	12.0	82
1940 ...	17.5	12.7	64
1941 ...	17.4	12.9	70
1942 ...	16.4	12.9	89

### Deaths.

Included in the total number of deaths are those of 158 residents of this district who died outside the area; 7 residents of other districts who died in the rural area are excluded.

The death rates for the various townships were as follows :—

			Death Rate per 1000 population.				Death Rate per 1000 population.
Biddick South	...	...	—	Lumley Little	...	...	10·8
Birtley	...	...	12·2	Ouston	...	...	14·5
Bournmoor	...	...	11·2	Pelton...	...	...	12·8
Edmondsley	...	...	12·0	Plawsworth	...	...	17·7
Harraton	...	...	12·8	Urpeth	...	...	15·0
Lambton	...	...	—	Waldridge	...	...	14·2
Lamesley	...	...	10·4	Sacriston	...	...	14·6
Lumley Great	...	...	13·1				

The following were the chief causes of death during the year :—

Cause.			Percentage of Total Deaths.
1.	{ Diseases of Heart	...	...
	{ Cerebral Haemorrhage and other	...	...
	{ Circulatory diseases	...	39·2
2.	Respiratory Diseases	...	13·2
3.	Cancer	...	10·2
4.	Violence	...	5·6
5.	Tuberculosis (all forms)	...	4·6

The age at death is summarised below :—

	Percentage of Total Deaths.
Under 1 year	11·2
1-5 years	4·0
5-15 years	1·8
15-25 years	3·6
25-45 years	9·6
45-65 years	26·6
65 years and upwards	43·2

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year. The chief causes of death enumerated are regarded as the principle killing diseases.

Deaths from Cancer and Tuberculosis will be referred to later in the report in that section dealing with these diseases.

There was one death registered from puerperal and other maternal causes, which is similar to last year.

### Infant Mortality.

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age registered during the year was 57 and is 8 more than in the previous year. This gives an infant mortality rate of 89, compared with 70 for the previous year 1941.



# BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1942.

	Rate per 1,000 Total Population.		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population.								Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	
	Live Births.	Still Births.	All Causes.	Typhoid and Para-Typhoid Fevers.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years).	Total deaths under one year.
England and Wales ...	15.8	0.54	11.6	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.05	0.09	5.2	49
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ...	17.3	0.66	13.3	0.00	—	0.02	0.00	0.03	0.06	0.09	7.5	59
148 Smaller Towns estimated Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census, 1931 ...	18.4	0.62	12.1	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.10	4.8	46
London ...	14.0	0.48	13.9	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.04	0.02	0.07	8.6	60
Chester-le-Street R.D. ...	16.4	0.67	12.9	0.00	—	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.21	0.16	7.9	89

per 1,000 Live & Still Births

Puerperal Sepsis.	Others.	Total.
0.42	1.59	2.01

The maternal mortality rates for England and Wales are as follows :

## SECTION B—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

### 1. Public Health Officers of the Authority.

For a detailed list of the staff of the Public Health Department, see page 5.

### 2 (a). Laboratory Facilities.

Arrangements for the examination of pathological and bacteriological specimens remain the same as in the past.

During the year, the following bacteriological examinations were carried out with the results appended.

Disease.	Positive.	Negative.	Totals.
Diphtheria ... ..	72	155	227
Tuberculosis ... ..	22	95	117
Typhoid, Dysentery and Food Poisoning			
Organisms ... ..	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	1	—	1
Blood for Widal Reaction	—	1	1

The total number of samples examined is equal to a rate of 8.9 per 1,000 of the population.

No change has taken place from last year in the under-mentioned services:—

Ambulance Facilities.

Nursing in the Home.

Treatment Centres.

Hospitals (Public and Voluntary).

## SECTION C—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### Water.

The district has a piped supply of water from the mains of public companies, with the exception of a few isolated houses which rely on springs and wells.

Samples of water are taken at monthly intervals from different points in the supply area of each public undertaking and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle-on-Tyne, for examination and report. During the year 87 samples were taken and of that number 12 or 13% were reported as not satisfactory and 6 or 7% as suspicious. 10 of the unsatisfactory samples were from the mains of Companies, and the remainder from the supplies of isolated houses.

In every case a copy of the report was sent to the body concerned. Where there was an unsatisfactory report a letter was sent asking for immediate steps to be taken to render the supply pure and wholesome. They were also requested to notify the Council as to what steps had been taken, and check samples were taken for further examination.

### **Emergency Water Supplies.**

The water undertakings of the area have accepted full responsibility for the supply of water in any part of the district, should the emergency arise.

### **Closet Accommodation.**

The privy conversion scheme has been held up during the present emergency.

3 conversions were carried out under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, by owners of property, assisted by a contribution from the Local Authority of half the cost or £3 10s. 0d., whichever was the less amount.

### **Public Cleansing.**

Scavenging of the district is carried out by direct labour, with the exception of part of the Parish of Harraton, where the work, involving about 365 houses is done by contract.

On the whole the scavenging work in the Rural District is fairly well carried out.

### **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**

Reference to the reports of the Sanitary Inspectors at the end of this report will show that this work has been carried out with care throughout the year.

### **Swimming Baths and Pools.**

There are two swimming baths in the district which are open to the public. One at Birtley, which is an open air pool and which was constructed by the Parish Council with help from the Commissioner for Special Areas ; the other at New Lambton, provided by the Miners' Welfare is a closed pool. Both are modern in design with efficient plants for filtering and treating the water chemically.

Samples of water from the pools are taken throughout the swimming season and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, King's College, Newcastle, for bacteriological examination. Last year 14 samples were taken and 13 were reported as satisfactory.

## SECTION E—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### (a) Milk Supply

Samples of milk are taken at regular intervals by the Sanitary Inspectors and submitted to the Agricultural Department, King's College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, for examination. 188 samples of milk were examined during the year, and 70% of the samples were within the prescribed standard of accredited milk. In every case a copy of the report on the sample is sent to the producer concerned, and if the report is not up to standard, a check sample is taken. Should the check sample not come up to requirements, the producer is invited to appear before the appropriate Committee of the Council to show cause why his registration should not be cancelled. This action generally has the necessary effect.

In this district milk production is clean, as evidenced by the high percentage of samples which were within clean limits. Much has been done to ensure clean milk production. Premises have been reconstructed, new dairies provided, and the veterinary staff have made visits to the farms at regular intervals to examine the cattle.

### (b) Meat and Other Foods.

The slaughter of animals is now carried out at the Government Regional Abattoir situated at the Co-operative premises in Chester-le-Street and your Sanitary Inspectors have taken duty spells for the inspection of meat with the Sanitary Inspector of the Urban District of Chester-le-Street.

## SECTION F—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

### Prevalence.

948 Notifications were received during the year compared with 720 the previous year and 1,361 in 1940. Included in this figure are 470 cases of Measles and 56 cases of Whooping Cough, as opposed to 185 and 190 respectively the previous year.

The following table gives the number of cases notified during the past ten years:—

DISEASE.	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
Smallpox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	370	572	306	215	179	226	43	50	64	111
Diphtheria	61	148	146	157	72	108	90	69	82	104
Enteric Fever	8	...	7	...	2	...	1	...	3	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	12	3	2	1	...	...	1	4	10	7
Poliomyelitis	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	67	90	84	130	106	69	...	78	81	7
Puerperal Fever	1	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	97
Puerperal Pyrexia	7	4	5	5	5	12	11	7	8	5
Erysipelas	36	45	31	32	32	50	20	24	26	25
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	2	1	4	5	2	6	4	2	4
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	51	53	49	48	40	40	44	38	45	47
Non-pulmonary	41	36	39	41	27	35	26	17	20	21
*Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	1033	185	470
*Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	32	34	190	56

\*From November 13th, 1939 only

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1942.

[illegible]



The attack rates of the notifiable diseases per 1,000 of the population for the Rural District, compared with the rates for England and Wales are shown on the following table :—

Disease.	Chester-le-Street Rural District			England and Wales.
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	2·86	2·19
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	2·69	1·05
Typhoid ... ..	...	...	—	0·01
Paratyphoid ... ..	...	...	—	0·01
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	0·64	0·30
Pneumonia ... ..	...	...	2·51	1·07
Cerebro Spinal Fever ... ..	...	...	0·18	0·14
Whooping Cough ... ..	...	...	12·16	1·73
Measles ... ..	...	...	1·45	7·46

Prevalence of notifiable diseases in the various townships is shown in the following table, which gives the attack rate per 1,000 of the population :—

Township.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Pneu- monia.	Ery- sipelas.
Biddick South ... ..	—	—	—	—
Birtley ... ..	3·29	2·79	2·09	0·29
Bournmoor ... ..	16·25	0·62	4·37	1·25
Edmondsley ... ..	2·53	3·79	5·06	0·63
Harraton ... ..	1·42	5·32	2·48	0·35
Lambton ... ..	10·20	—	—	—
Lamesley ... ..	3·58	1·38	0·55	1·38
Lumley Great ... ..	2·92	8·03	8·76	1·46
Lumley Little ... ..	7·22	2·16	3·61	0·72
Ouston ... ..	3·63	—	1·21	1·21
Pelton ... ..	0·97	1·62	1·79	0·65
Plawsworth ... ..	—	0·77	0·77	—
Urpeth ... ..	1·29	2·15	0·43	—
Waldridge ... ..	2·83	1·42	2·83	1·42
Sacrison ... ..	0·42	3·81	4·02	0·85

### Cancer.

51 deaths were registered during the year as being due to Cancer, which is equal to a death rate of 1·32 per 1,000 of the population. The death rate from this disease shows a slight increase on the previous year.

Of the 51 deaths, 27 occurred in males and 24 in females. No undue occupational prevalence was noted.

## Tuberculosis.

No action was taken during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade) or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

New cases and mortality from Tuberculosis during 1942 :—

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1-5 ...	—	—	1	2	—	—	3	2
5-15 ...	3	1	5	4	—	—	—	—
15-25 ...	10	13	1	5	—	3	—	1
25-35 ...	4	2	1	1	3	1	—	—
35-45 ...	3	2	—	1	4	—	—	—
45-55 ...	—	3	—	—	3	2	—	—
55-65 ...	4	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 & over	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	24	23	8	13	11	6	3	3

The following table gives the notifications and deaths occurring in the Rural District during the past five years.

Year.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pulmonary	
	Notifications.	Deaths.	Notifications	Deaths.
1938 ...	40	21	35	4
1939 ...	39	30	26	3
1940 ...	38	23	17	7
1941 ...	45	29	20	3
1942 ...	47	27	21	6

The Local Authority supplies disinfectants to tuberculous persons for the disinfection of sputum and the washing of floors. etc.

Houses in which deaths take place from Tuberculosis are disinfected by the Local Authority, and any bedding which cannot be disinfected by steam is destroyed and the household compensated.



# Chester-le-Street Rural District Council

## (NORTHERN AREA).

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### Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report for 1942.

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To the Chairman and Members of the  
Chester-le-Street R.D.C.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my fourteenth Annual Report on the Sanitary Conditions of the Area, and the works carried out under the legislation in force in the Area.

#### **Area.**

There has been no alteration in the area under my supervision which includes the Parishes of Birtley, Harraton, Lamesley, Ouston, and Urpeth.

#### **Housing.**

The building of new houses has been suspended in the Area owing to restriction of material and labour, only work of the most urgent importance is now being carried out.

A survey of the houses in the district has been made, and a schedule of all houses which it is proposed shall be included in the post war housing schemes has been prepared, these schemes will be put into operation immediately conditions permit.

#### **Closet Accommodation.**

No conversion schemes have been carried out during the year, work has been mainly confined to the maintenance of existing accommodation in good sanitary condition.

New closets which have been provided have been mainly in connection with factories and workshops.

#### **Scavenging.**

With the exception of 394 houses and premises in the Northern half of Harraton Parish all houses and premises are scavenged by

direct labour. Owing to labour and transport difficulties the contractor in the Southern half of the Parish found it necessary in September to terminate his contract and the work was taken over and is done by the 'Council's scavengers.

The scavenging throughout the area is well attended to, and very few complaints are received.

### Water Supplies.

Apart from a few isolated houses in the Area, all houses are supplied by three Water Companies, the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, the Durham County Water Board, and the Lambton, Hetton and Joicy Collieries Ltd., from whom water is obtained in bulk and distributed by the Council.

Samples are taken each month and submitted to the Public Health Department, King's College, Newcastle-on-Tyne, for bacteriological examination, and copies of the reports are sent to the Water Companies concerned.

During the year 39 samples were taken and the following reports were received.

Satisfactory samples	...	...	30
Suspicious samples	...	...	1
Unsatisfactory samples	...	...	8
			—
Total	...	...	39
			—

### Dairies and Cowsheds.

During the year three producers have given up the business of Dairy-men.

There are 31 Registered producers in the Area of which 13 have been issued by the County Authorities with Accredited licenses. There are also 8 purveyors of milk who deliver milk within the Area.

Samples of milk are taken twice each year and submitted to the Agricultural Department of King's College, Newcastle-on-Tyne, for bacteriological examination, and any samples which are not satisfactory are followed up by visits to the Dairy and check samples are taken until a satisfactory sample is obtained.

The results of all samples are sent to the producers concerned, and in the case of producers outside the area, the Local Authority of the Area in which the milk is produced is notified.

During the year 108 samples were taken, of these 78 were within Accredited Standards and 33 being outside that standard were considered unsatisfactory.

### Meat and Food Inspection.

All fresh meat is now killed at the Ministry of Food Slaughtering Centre, Chester-le-Street, all other slaughterhouses in the area being closed.

An arrangement was arrived at between the Urban and Rural District Councils whereby the Inspectors of each Authority take turns of a week's inspection at the Slaughter House. The arrangement works very satisfactorily. All carcasses of meat are inspected when killed.

During the year the following carcasses of meat were inspected.

Steers	...	...	290	Calves	...	...	56
Bulls	...	...	8	Sheep	...	...	2817
Cows	...	...	125	Pigs	...	...	107
Heifers	...	...	214				

The following meat and other foods were condemned as unfit for food and dealt with in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Food.

	lbs.		lbs.
Beef	... 6013½	Back Collop	... 59
Mutton	... 499	Guts and Fat	... 761
Beef Heads	... 401	Tripes	... 620
Pork Heads	... 107	Heart	... 69
Veal	... 35	Kidneys	... 54
Lungs	... 1087	Spleen	... 10
Livers	... 474	Udders	... 230
Plucks	... 27	Tail and Fat	... 70

Total weight—4 tons 13 cwts., 7 st. 10 lbs.

**Other Foods.**

	lbs.	ozs.		lbs.	ozs.
Tinned Meats ...	494	4	Tinned Fish ...	3	11
„ Vegetables ...	56	10	Bacon ...	35	12
„ Fruit ...	25	0	Ham ...	13	8
„ Jam ...	46	4	Flour ...	12	0
„ Milk ...	107	4	Cheese ...	85	12
Sugar ...	1	8	Eggs ...	360	

Total Weight—7 cwts. 7 st. 4 lbs.

**Petroleum Consolidated Act, 1928.**

Licenses under the above act are all issued for the period January 1st to December 31st.

During the year 15 licenses were issued, the authorised quantity of petrol to be stored being 13,200 gallons which includes 100 gallons of Naphtha.

The method of storing includes properly constructed brick stores and underground tanks, there are four brick stores and 11 underground tanks.

**Carbide of Calcium.**

12 licenses were issued for the storage of Carbide of Calcium, the maximum amount to be stored being 338,810 lbs.

The stores which are specially constructed are inspected regularly and kept in good order.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOS. FOSTER,

Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods, R.S.I.  
 Cert. Sanitary Inspector, R.S.I.,  
 Sanitary Inspector (Northern Area).

# Chester-le-Street Rural District Council.

## (SOUTHERN AREA).

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### Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report for the Year 1942.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Chester-le-Street Rural District Council.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my third Annual Report on the Sanitary administration of the Southern Area of your district. Owing to the present emergency, this report must of necessity be brief, and limited to those aspects of Public Health the importance of which must function in times of war as well as in peace. I acknowledge also with thanks, the co-operation and assistance given me by the Council and my colleagues.

#### **Area.**

The district is the same as last year, there being no change to record.

#### **Housing.**

The increasing gravity of the housing position in the Southern Area cannot be under-estimated ; as the months and years pass by, so the condemned houses which are still unfortunately tenanted continue to deteriorate. It is deplorable that so little can be done, but we look forward eagerly, to an early resumption of building activities and post war re-construction. The blackest spots remaining are the A, B, C and D Street, Perkinsville, Old Lumley Village and the Cross Streets at Sacriston. Whenever possible, the tenants of these places are being rehoused as vacancies occur on our estates.

Closing Orders were served in respect of Nettlesworth Hall Farm and two Cottages near by, these Orders are now operative. Under Section 11 of the Housing Act, two Demolition Orders were served in respect of 4 and 5, Daglishes Buildings, Daisy Hill ; the tenants have been rehoused and the property is awaiting demolition.

It is becoming more and more difficult to get repairs done to property owing to the shortage of manpower and materials.

### **Sanitary Accommodation.**

Under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, three privy conversions were privately carried out by owner occupiers, the usual allowance being applied for and sanctioned in each case.

### **Scavenging.**

The last remaining scavenging area in my district to be carried out by contract has now been taken over by the Council.

### **Dairies and Cowsheds.**

Regular and systematic inspections of all cowsheds and dairies in my area have been made throughout the year and a good hygienic standard has been maintained. The number of registered producers of milk remains the same as for last year at 29, this figure includes 5 wholesalers, 21 retailers, one wholesale and retail, and 2 retail dairymen. I have 5 farms producing accredited milk by licence. In addition there are 3 retailers whose milk is produced in other Districts, and 2 retailers of pasteurised milk.

Milk Sampling which is carried out twice a year resulted in 80 initial samples being taken for bacteriological examination, and of these 54 or 67.5% were within the accredited standard. This percentage would be raised to 82.5 if we only took into account our own producers and left out the outside producers and pool milks. Check samples of those failing to attain the accredited standard were made after a careful investigation at the farm and the faults rectified.

### **Water Samples.**

Samples of water are taken monthly from various parts of the district ; a total of 47 were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination.

### **Supplementary Water Supplies.**

In the Lumley area 4 samples were taken and at Nettlesworth one was taken and submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination. These samples proved satisfactory from the point of view for which they were taken.

### **Meat and Food Inspection.**

The quality of the food consumed has a direct bearing on the health of the community, and as a greater variety of articles are



now purchased in tins, a constant system of inspection is maintained to ensure that only wholesome articles reach the public. The meat supply is inspected regularly at the Government Regional Abattoir at the Co-operative Societies premises at Chester-le-Street. The following carcasses of meat were inspected during the year:—306 steers, 234 heifers, 93 cows, 5 bulls, = (638 bovines) ; 39 calves, 80 pigs, 2,881 sheep. Of this, the following amount of meat was condemned as being unfit for food, and disposed of in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Food.

			st.	lbs.
3	Carcases of cow beef	... ..	109	6
2	Fore quarters and loins of cow beef	... ..	22	5
1	Fore quarter and loins of bullock beef	... ..	17	4
	Bruised beef	... ..		10
5	Beast heads and 6 tongues	... ..	10	7
29	Sets of Beast Lungs	... ..	33	4
16	Beast livers	... ..	19	6
5	Beast hearts	... ..	2	3
5	Beast udders	... ..	5	10
2	Beast kidneys	... ..		1½
	Beast fats and other organs	... ..	60	6
2	Carcases of mutton	... ..	5	12
	Bruised mutton	... ..		2
2	Sheeps plucks	... ..		9
1	Sheep head	... ..		5
	Mutton fats and other organs	... ..	1	0
1	Fore leg of pork	... ..		4
Total weight condemned			289	11½

Other articles of food inspected, and condemned as being unfit for human consumption consist of:—

			st.	lbs.	ozs.
	Beef and pork sausage	... ..	8	—	—
158	Tins of meats	... ..	39	12	10
11	Tins of fish	... ..	—	11	—
52	Tins of vegetables	... ..	1	6	—
13	Tins of fruit	... ..	3	1	—
26	Tins of milk	... ..	1	6	13
	Butter and other fats	... ..	1	1	—
	Cheese	... ..	3	—	12
74	Eggs	... ..	—	—	—
Total weight condemned			58	11	3

### Factories.

All factories in the area have been inspected throughout the year and found satisfactory.

### Petroleum Consolidated Act, 1928.

During the year 4 licences were issued for the storage of 5,200 gallons of petrol, also 5 licences were granted to store 19 cwts. of carbide of calcium, and one for 5 gallons of Naphtha.

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

### Summary of Notices Served.

Description.	Number of Informal Notices Served.	Number of Formal Notices Served.	Number of Notices Complied with.	Remarks.
Foul Conditions ...	5	...	4	
Structural Defects ...	91	...	55	
Overcrowding ...	1	...	1	
Dairies and Milk Shops	1	...	1	
Cowsheds ...	2	1	3	
Slaughter Houses ...	...	...	...	
Ash Pits and Privies ...	19	...	12	
Deposits & Refuse ...	5	...	5	
Water Closets ...	16	...	19	3 from 1941 com-
Defective Yard Paving	3	...	3	[plied with
Defective Traps ...	1	...	1	
„ Drains ...	30	...	32	2 from 1941 com
„ Water Supply	7	...	7	[plied with
Bakehouses ...	...	...	...	
Animals improperly kept	...	...	...	
Smoke Nuisances ...	...	...	...	
Other Nuisances ...	4	...	2	
Cesspools cleansed ...	1	1	1	
Defective Dust Bins ...	6	...	5	
Rat Infestations ...	3	...	3	
Totals ...	195	2	154	

### Summary of Works carried out.

Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	55
Spouting repaired	...	...	...	...	19
External walls repaired	...	...	...	...	2



Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	27
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	31
Waste pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	5
New drains laid	...	...	...	...	...	6
Inspection chambers constructed			...	...	...	3
Ash closets repaired	...	...	...	...	...	12
Water closets repaired	...	...	...	...	...	19
Dust bins provided	...	...	...	...	...	5
Water pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	7
Outhouses repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Yards repaired	...	...	...	...	...	3
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	3
Internal walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	15
Kitchen ranges repaired	...	...	...	...	...	27
Doors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	9
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	14
Gullies provided and fixed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fireplaces repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Accumulations of refuse etc. removed				...	...	5
Other nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	2
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	1
Privy conversions	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cesspools cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Foul conditions abated	...	...	...	...	...	4
Rat infestations abated	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dairy floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cowshed approach cemented	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dirty cowsheds cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	2

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES WILFRID ROBSON,  
Sanitary and Meat and Food Inspector.





